

United States Patent and Trademark Office

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,042	03/22/2004	Shingo Kataoka	3408.70171	9972
75	90 09/07/2006		EXAM	INER
Patrick G. Burns, Esq.			LETSCHER, GERALDINE	
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD. Suite 2500			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
300 South Wacker Drive			1752	
Chicago, IL 6	0606		DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006	5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary for Applications **Under Accelerated Examination**

Application No.	Applicant(s) *	
10/806,042	KATAOKA ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Geraldine V. Letscher	1752	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --Since this application has been granted special status under the accelerated examination program.

NO extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be permitted and a SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE:

ONE MONTH OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER,

FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION - if this is a non-final action or a Quayle action. (Examiner: For FINAL actions, please use PTOL-326.)

The objective of the accelerated examination program is to complete the examination of an application within twelve

be expeditiously proce	essed and considered. If the reply must be filed electronically via EFS-Web so the essed and considered. If the reply is not filed electronically via EFS-Web, the final relater than twelve months from the filing of the application.	
Status		
2) Since this a	e to communication(s) filed on <u>22 March 2004</u> . Application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to excordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.	o the merits is
Disposition of Claim	ı s	
3a) Of the a 4) ☐ Claim(s) 5) ☑ Claim(s) 1-3 6) ☐ Claim(s)	is/are pending in the application. above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. is/are allowed. is/are rejected. is/are objected to. are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.	*
Application Papers		
9) The drawing Applicant ma Replacement	ation is objected to by the Examiner. I(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. It is not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.850 of the drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form	37 CFR 1.121(d).
Priority under 35 U.S	S.C. § 119	
a)⊠ All b)□ 1.⊠ Certifi 2.□ Certifi 3.□ Copie applic	ment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). Some * c) None of: ied copies of the priority documents have been received. ied copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. es of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). d detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.	

Attachment(s)

1) X Notice of References Cite	/CD8-OTQ) he
--------------------------------	--------------

((Other:

Office Action Summary

GERALDINE LETSCHEH Paper No./Mail Date 20060902

PRIMARY (EXAMINER GROUP 1100

²⁾ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

³⁾ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)

Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3-22-04.

⁵⁾ Notice of Informal Patent Application

Art Unit: 1752

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.
- 2. Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsuda et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0191428).

Tsuda et al. teaches a liquid crystal panel and corresponding method of manufacturing thereof, wherein said liquid crystal panel has a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between a pair of substrate, characterized in that said liquid crystal layer comprises a liquid crystal and a cross-linked resin, further characterized in that said cross-linked resin comprises a structural part and a terminal part.

Double Patenting

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422

Application/Control Number: 10/806,042 Page 3

Art Unit: 1752

F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

- 4. Claims 1-35 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of Tsuda et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0191428). Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both sets of claims are drawn to a liquid crystal panel and corresponding method of manufacturing thereof, wherein said liquid crystal panel has a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between a pair of substrate, characterized in that said liquid crystal layer comprises a liquid crystal and a cross-linked resin, further characterized in that said cross-linked resin comprises a structural part and a terminal part.
- 5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geraldine V. Letscher whose telephone number is (571) 272-1334. The examiner can normally be reached 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on (571) 272-1526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

GERALDINE LETSCHER PRIMARY EXAMINER GROUP 1100 Application/Control Number: 10/806,042 Page 4

Art Unit: 1752

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.